



Department of Justice

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MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – Jesse Laws, a 26-year-old resident of Great Falls, was sentenced today to 108 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to receipt and possession of child pornography. Laws was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$200, forfeit his computer equipment, and will be under supervision for 5 years.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial that Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were investigating allegations of child pornography distribution by users utilizing a peer-to-peer file sharing network.

Beginning in April of 2005, one investigation involved an individual in Great Falls who offered to share child pornography via a file sharing program. ICE agents tracked the computer IP address to a Great Falls residence.

On June 30, 2005, agents executed a search warrant on the residence. It was determined that Laws had resided at this residence and was responsible for the child pornography computer traffic. However, the night before the search was executed, Laws took his belongings and moved to an apartment in the same building to live with friends. Laws took the computer with him to the apartment.

A second search warrant for the apartment in which Laws' was currently residing was obtained and served. Numerous items of computer equipment were seized and forensically examined.

The forensic examination of the computer found numerous items of child pornography that Laws had received and possessed via the Internet during 2005. Laws possessed a large number of images, including children clearly prepubescent and children engaged in sadistic or masochistic abuse or other depictions of violence.

Laws admitted that he had begun searching the Internet in March of 2005 using file sharing programs. He admitted that he possessed hundreds of child pornography movies and knew that others were obtaining files from his file sharing program.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

“This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys’ Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.”

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